United Nations E/2016/NGO/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Al Birr & Al Tawasul Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

16-08193 (E) 230516

Please recycle

Statement*

The countries around the globe are different in their economic, political and social status. When it comes to implementation of projects that match development, stakeholders should study thoroughly the status, especially the social aspects.

Communities in developing countries need not only to apply projects for health or education or livelihoods. They need first to change their thinking and their traditions. These communities need to co-exist, because in many developing countries, crisis and fighting over available resources makes it difficult to live in peace and hence to develop.

It happens that governments provide facilities for all aspects of life, but because of lack of awareness among the targeted communities the use of these facilities is not convenient. Awareness-raising on human rights and on the importance of education, health, income generation, empowerment of women and all aspects of life, is a must in many developing countries.

Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations provide facilities to serve vulnerable communities. This may work for a limited time only, either because the running of these facilities is not included or is not considered when governments and partners plan to serve these communities.

Partnerships must consider the sustainability of projects. The communities must be involved in all projects of development from the beginning until the end and must have a voice on the methodologies of implementation and administration.

Lastly, communities are different across continents, among countries, and even among localities and this must be taken into consideration.

---

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

Statement*

All India Women's Education Fund Association established India's premier Home Science College for women in 1932.

The Association completes 86 years of service in promoting women's education and training to advance women's rights including in the areas of violence against women; family and child care; environmental sustainability; nutrition and health; vocational skills and building women's capacity for political representation, especially at the village level.

Within the last year, the Association provided access to progressive employment opportunities to 350 underprivileged women by teaching skills in safe driving; mobilising women to become cab drivers for women passengers; training women to become insurance advisors; equipping women in self-defence techniques; conducting cyber security awareness workshops; initiating cleanliness and sanitation drives; awarding institutional innovative work in prevention of disabilities in children and assistive technologies; conducting conferences with United Nations partners on education, employment and cyber security.

Realising that women's empowerment and the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lie in world-wide implementation programmes, the Association combined academic strength with sound implementation and training strategies to launch, 'A world we women want', a service delivery mechanism that mapped implementation strategies from India, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Africa in conformity with national policies and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the Sixtieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), the Association mapped and published a Compendium of Good Practices. This included voices from the ground from SAARC nations and Africa and presented specific and replicable advocacy plans in implementing cross-cutting goals like education, health, access to clean water, food security, housing, among others. Copies of the Compendium were shared with UN Women's Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director.

A world we women want placed women at the centre of societies and organizations and not as mute beneficiaries, encouraged them to assume leadership roles, take control of their own destinies and become role models who inspire younger females.

Sumitra and Dayawati are farm women from rural Haryana, India who upgraded and joined their traditional knowledge with technological innovations to reduce drudgery and improve their standard of living. Drawing on the ground with a twig, they explain to listeners, the intricacies of building a low-cost vermin compost pit or a biogas plant; installing nethouses for early cropping of nursery-grown vegetables; using improved quality seeds for profuse flowering; adopting efficient sowing methods to conserve water and energy; using innovative technology like the hand-held wheel hoe to reduce drudgery; or speaking about their journey of empowerment at United Nations conferences.

The Association plans to further map and document concern areas of the Global South, cross pollinate them with rich advocacy plans to present replicable and scaleable SDG programmes for NGOs to follow.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.